JOE BOOKS LTD
#7
SPARROW
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Disney
DARKWING
DUCK
Disney
COMICS

DISNEY DARKWING DUCK

STORYTELLERS
AARON SPARROW & JAMES SILVANI

COLORS
ANDREW DALHOUSE, PAUL LITTLE, & MATT HERMS

LETTERS
BRANDON DESTEFANO

ASSISTANT EDITOR
R. JANICE ORLANDO

EDITOR
JESSE POST

WHEN THE CITIZENS OF ST. CANARD ARE THREATENED BY NEFARIOUS NE'ER-DO-WELLS, A HERO ANSWERS THEIR CALL: THE TERROR THAT FLAPS IN THE NIGHT, DARKWING DUCK! SUBURBAN DAD DRAKE MALLARD BY DAY, DARING DUCK OF MYSTERY BY NIGHT--DARKWING STANDS AGAINST THE TIDE OF VILLAINY WITH MUCH-NEEDED HELP FROM HIS FEARLESS ADOPTED DAUGHTER, GOSALYN, AND LOYAL SIDEKICK, LAUNCHPAD MCQUACK.

SPECIAL THANKS TO TAD STONES FOR BRINGING DARKWING DUCK TO LIFE!

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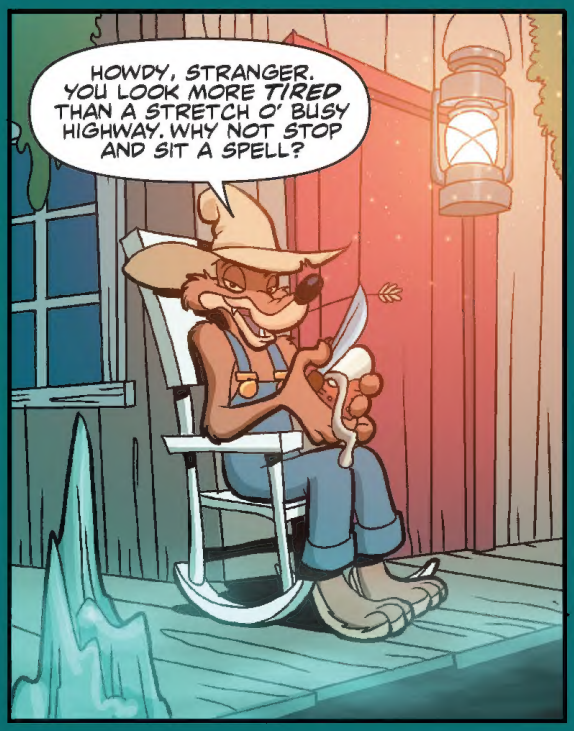
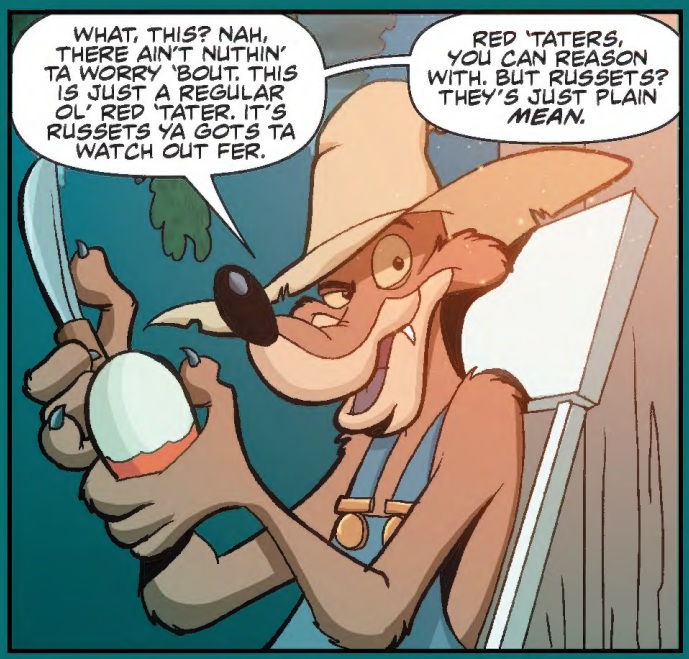
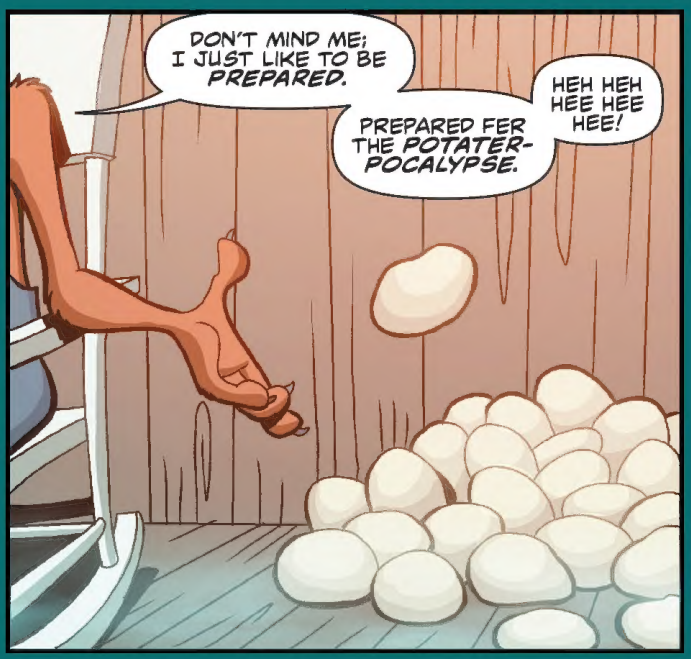
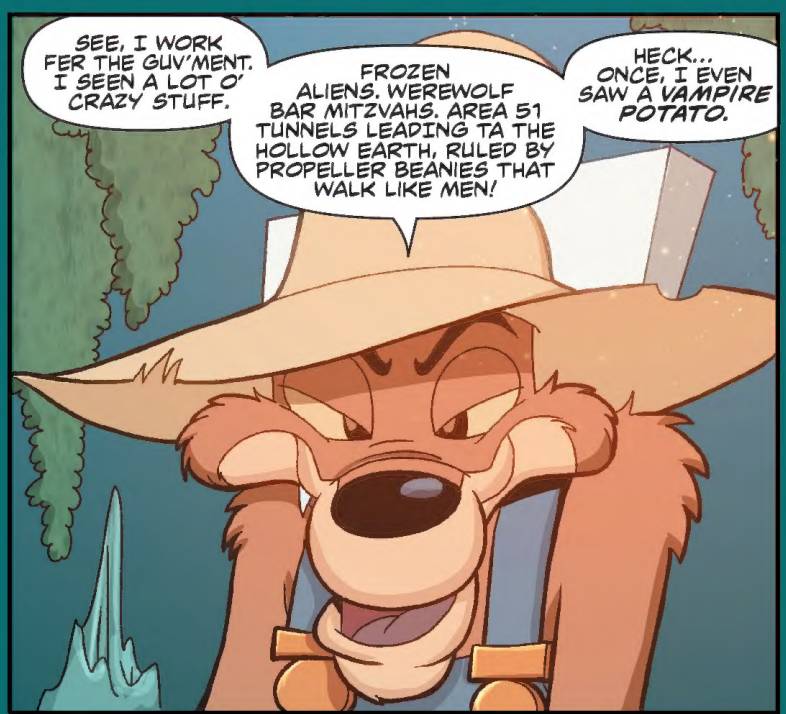
CREAK
CREEAAK

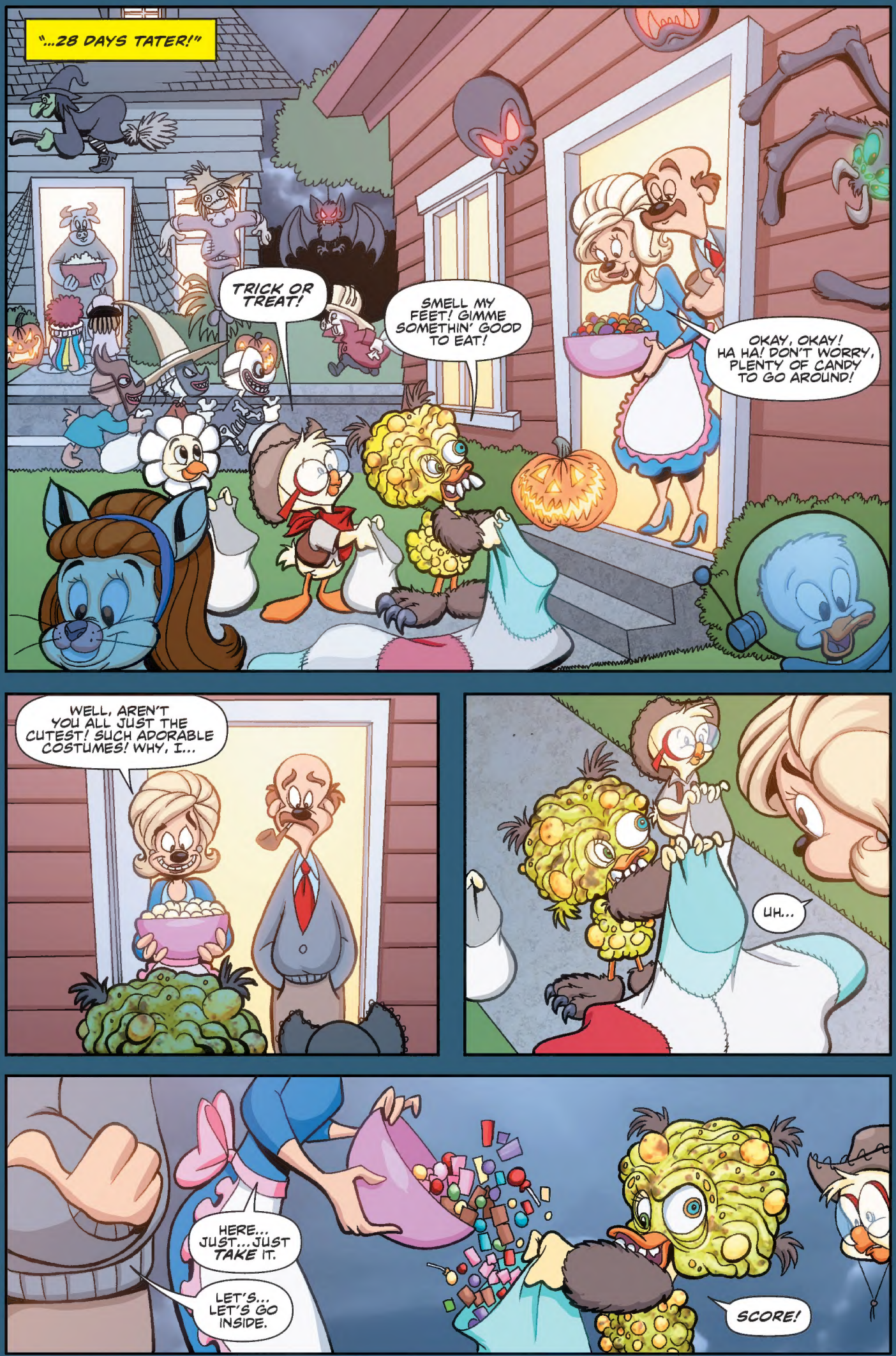

HOWDY, STRANGER. YOU LOOK MORE *TIRED* THAN A STRETCH O' BUSY HIGHWAY. WHY NOT STOP AND SIT A SPELL?

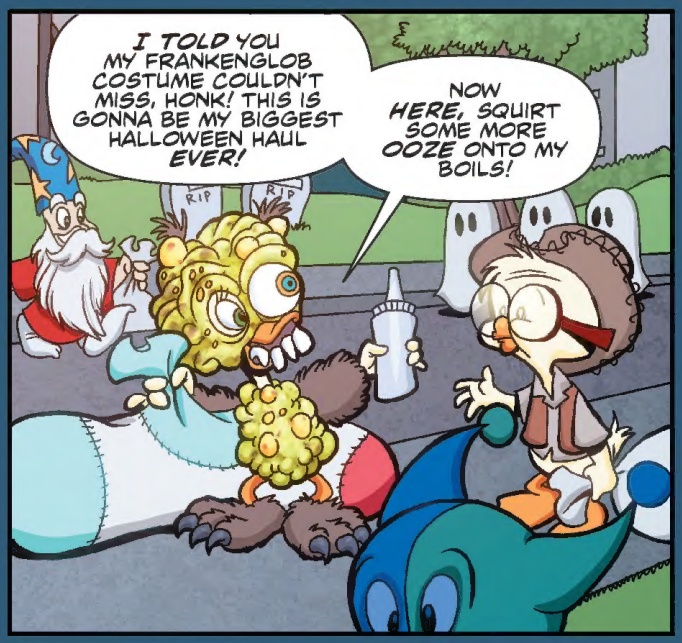

WHAT, THIS? NAH, THERE AIN'T NUTHIN' TA WORRY 'BOUT. THIS IS JUST A REGULAR OL' RED 'TATER. IT'S RUSSETS YA GOTS TA WATCH OUT FER.
RED 'TATERS, YOU CAN REASON WITH. BUT RUSSETS? THEY'S JUST PLAIN *MEAN.*

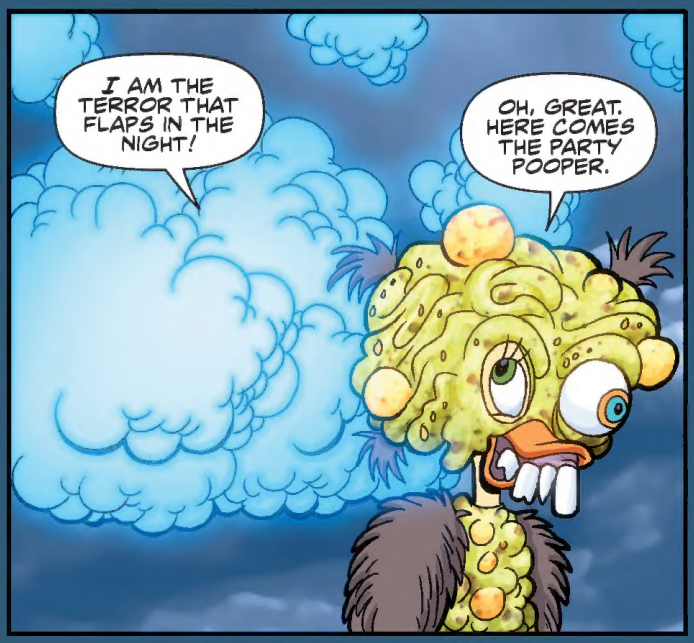

DON'T MIND ME; I JUST LIKE TO BE *PREPARED.*
PREPARED FER THE *POTATER-POCALYPSE.*
HEH HEH HEE HEE HEE!


SEE, I WORK FER THE GUV'MENT. I SEEN A LOT O' CRAZY STUFF.
FROZEN ALIENS. WEREWOLF BAR MITZVAHS. AREA 51 TUNNELS LEADING TA THE HOLLOW EARTH, RULED BY PROPELLER BEANIES THAT WALK LIKE MEN!
HECK... ONCE, I EVEN SAW A *VAMPIRE POTATO.*

BUT THIS HERE AIN'T *THAT* STORY. NAH, THIS IS THE STORY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...

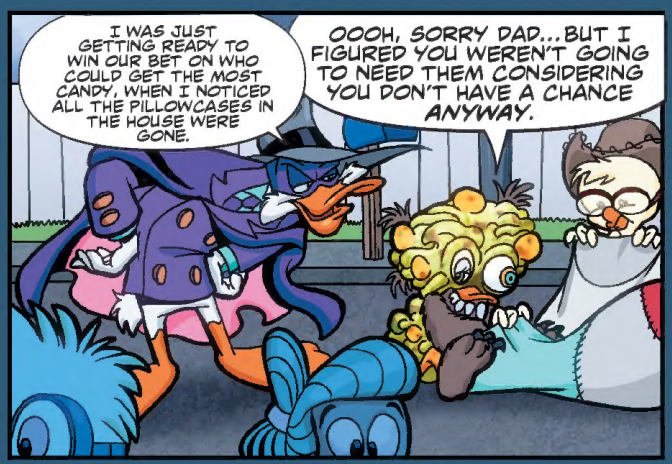

"...28 DAYS TATER!"
TRICK OR TREAT!
SMELL MY FEET! GIMME SOMETHIN' GOOD TO EAT!
OKAY, OKAY! HA HA! DON'T WORRY, PLENTY OF CANDY TO GO AROUND!
WELL, AREN'T YOU ALL JUST THE CUTEST! SUCH ADORABLE COSTUMES! WHY, I...
UH...
HERE... JUST... JUST TAKE IT.
LET'S... LET'S GO INSIDE.
SCORE!


I TOLD YOU MY FRANKENGLOB COSTUME COULDN'T MISS, HONK! THIS IS GONNA BE MY BIGGEST HALLOWEEN HAUL EVER!
NOW HERE, SQUIRT SOME MORE OOZE ONTO MY BOILS!
RIP
RIP

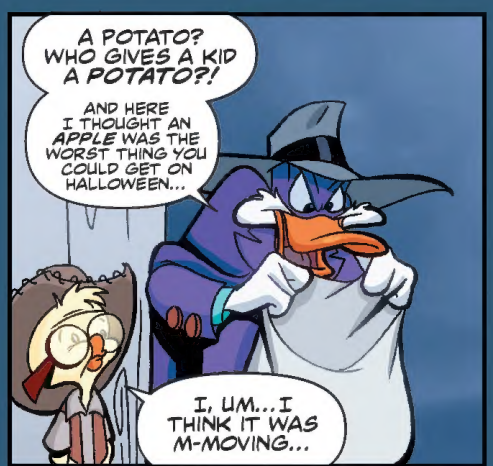

I AM THE TERROR THAT FLAPS IN THE NIGHT!
OH, GREAT. HERE COMES THE PARTY POOPER.

I AM THE BOX OF RAISINS, SPOILING YOUR HALLOWEEN CANDY HAUL!
I AM--
IT'S THE DUCK AVENGER!

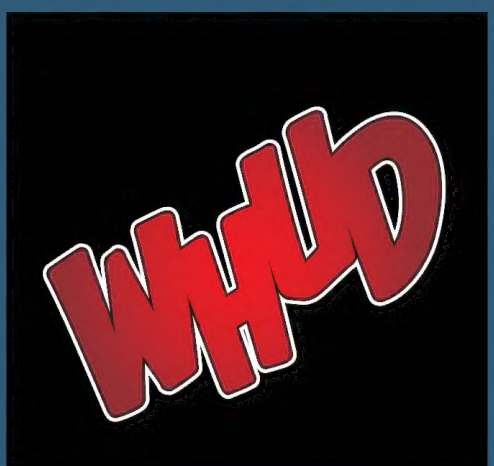
:SIGH: SURE. WHY NOT?


I WAS JUST GETTING READY TO WIN OUR BET ON WHO COULD GET THE MOST CANDY, WHEN I NOTICED ALL THE PILLOWCASES IN THE HOUSE WERE GONE.
OOOH, SORRY DAD...BUT I FIGURED YOU WEREN'T GOING TO NEED THEM CONSIDERING YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE ANYWAY.

I GOT A CORN SYRUP BAR!!
I GOT A KIRBY KRACKLE BAR!
I GOT A POTATO.


A POTATO? WHO GIVES A KID A POTATO?!
AND HERE I THOUGHT AN APPLE WAS THE WORST THING YOU COULD GET ON HALLOWEEN...
I, UM...I THINK IT WAS M-MOVING...

SHOOP
AHH!
AHH!


WHUD

DAWN OF THE DAY OF THE RETURN OF THE LIVING SPUD

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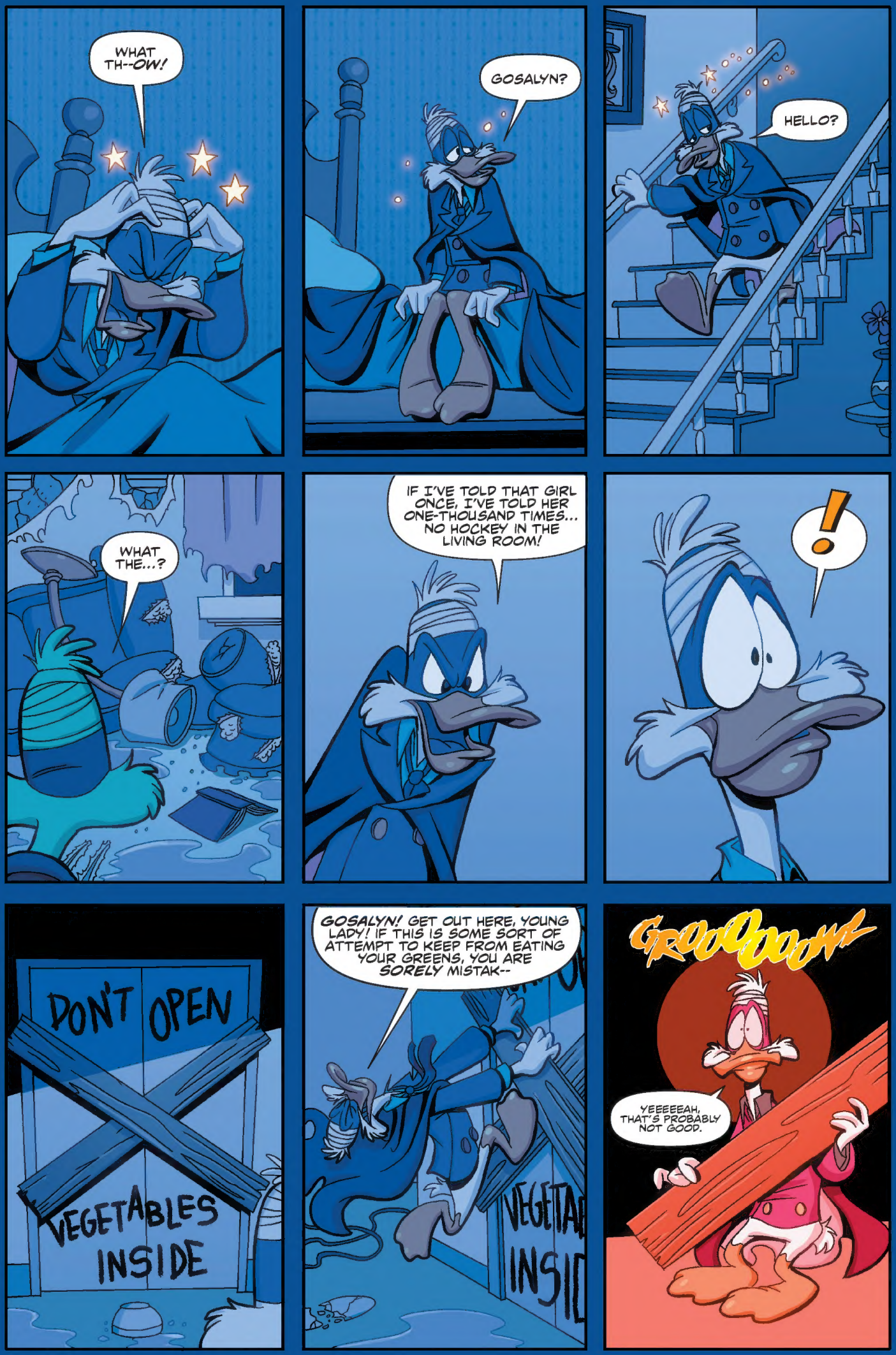
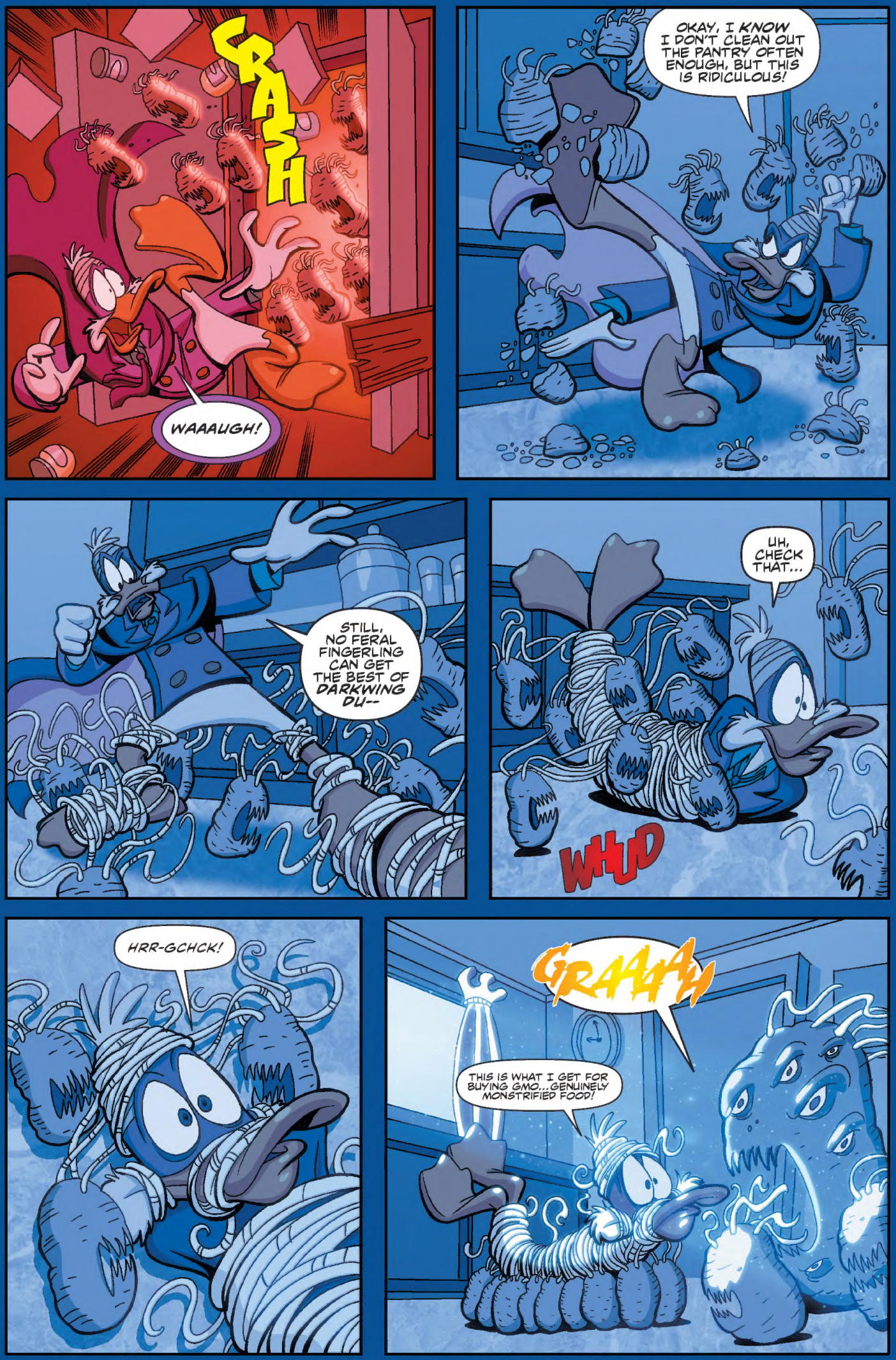
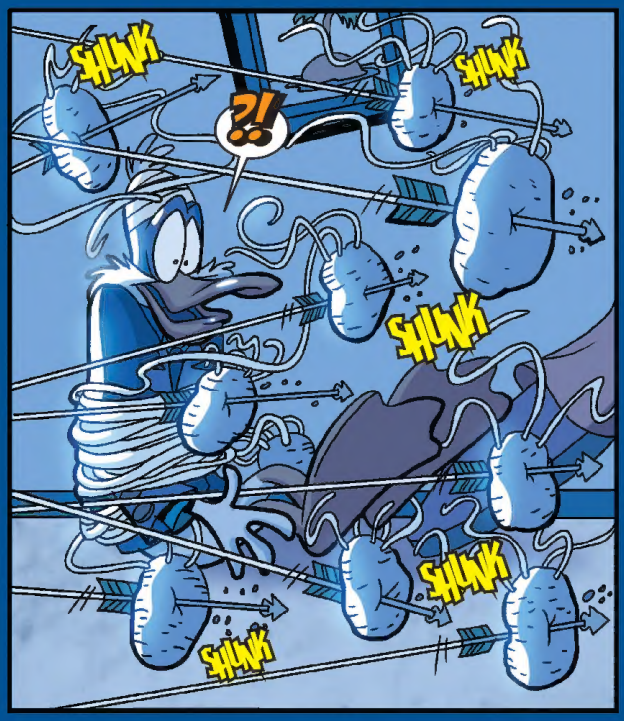
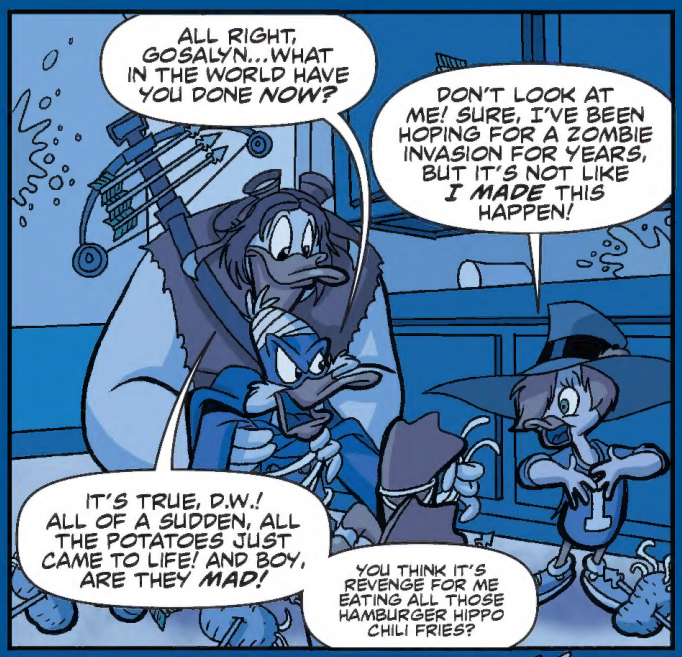
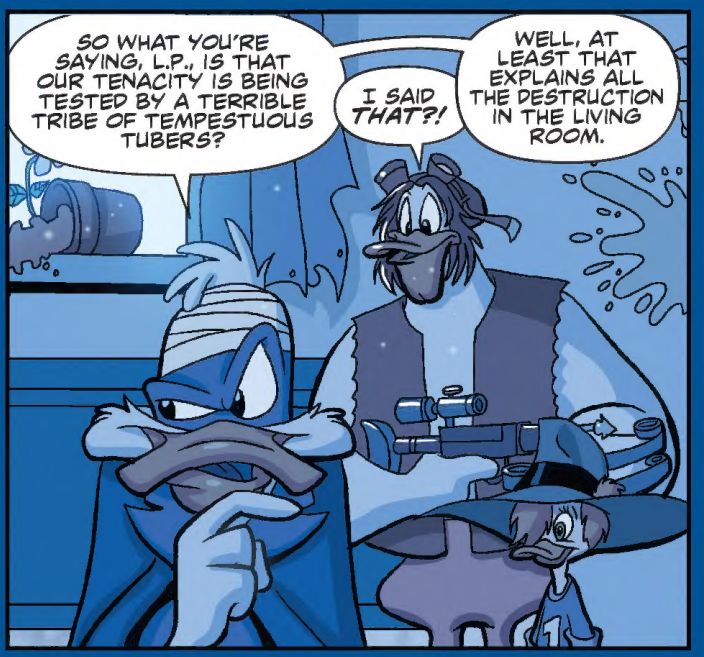

WHAT TH--OW!
GOSALYN?
HELLO?
WHAT THE...?
IF I'VE TOLD THAT GIRL ONCE, I'VE TOLD HER ONE-THOUSAND TIMES... NO HOCKEY IN THE LIVING ROOM!
!
DON'T OPEN
VEGETABLES INSIDE
GOSALYN! GET OUT HERE, YOUNG LADY! IF THIS IS SOME SORT OF ATTEMPT TO KEEP FROM EATING YOUR GREENS, YOU ARE SORELY MISTAK--
GROOOO


CRASH
WAAAUGH!
OKAY, I KNOW I DON'T CLEAN OUT THE PANTRY OFTEN ENOUGH, BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
STILL, NO FERAL FINGERLING CAN GET THE BEST OF DARKWING DU--
UH, CHECK THAT...
WHUD
HRR-GCHCK!
GRAAAH
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR BUYING GMO...GENUINELY MONSTRIFIED FOOD!


SHUNK
?!
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK

DAD!

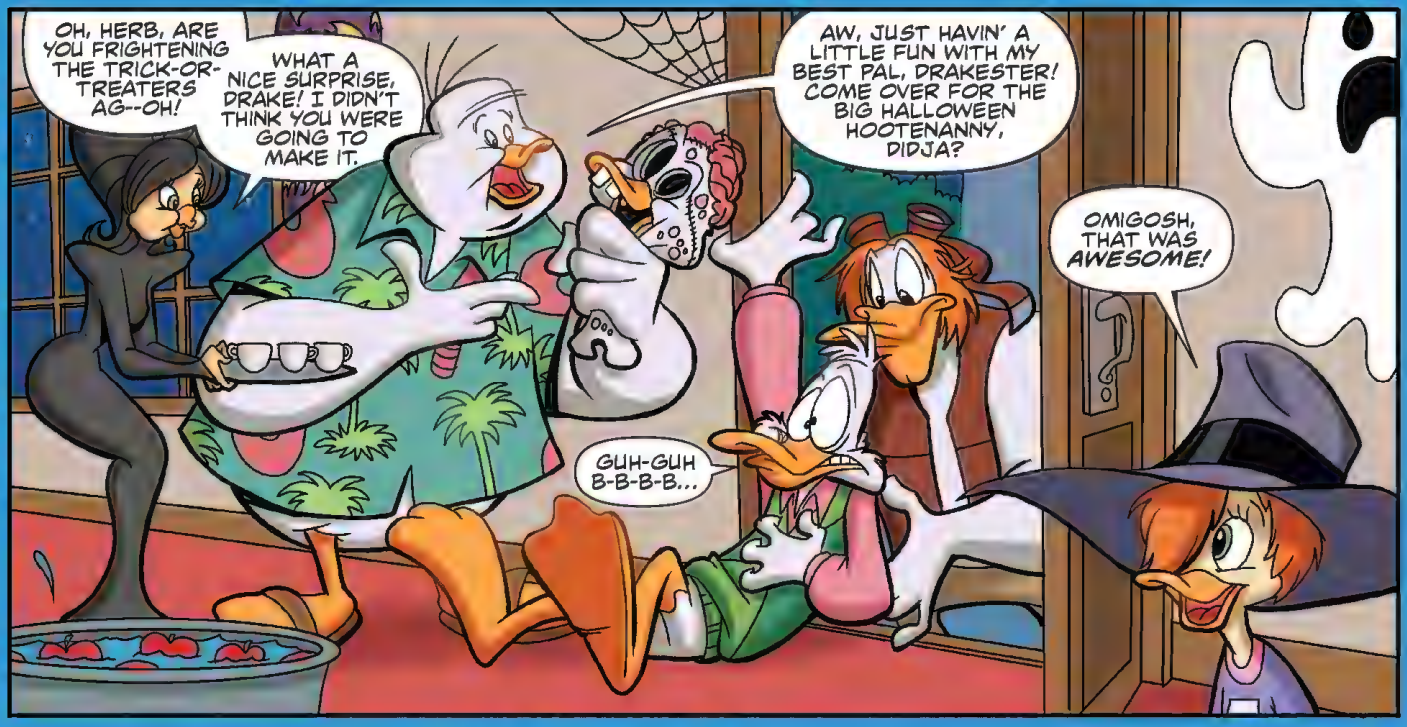

ALL RIGHT, GOSALYN...WHAT IN THE WORLD HAVE YOU DONE NOW?
DON'T LOOK AT ME! SURE, I'VE BEEN HOPING FOR A ZOMBIE INVASION FOR YEARS, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I MADE THIS HAPPEN!
IT'S TRUE, D.W.! ALL OF A SUDDEN, ALL THE POTATOES JUST CAME TO LIFE! AND BOY, ARE THEY MAD!
YOU THINK IT'S REVENGE FOR ME EATING ALL THOSE HAMBURGER HIPPO CHILI FRIES?

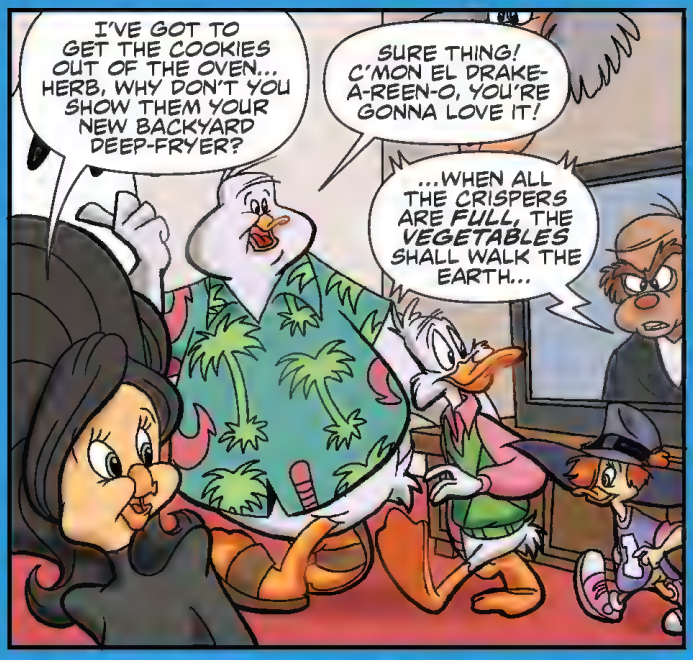

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, L.P., IS THAT OUR TENACITY IS BEING TESTED BY A TERRIBLE TRIBE OF TEMPESTUOUS TUBERS?
I SAID THAT?!
WELL, AT LEAST THAT EXPLAINS ALL THE DESTRUCTION IN THE LIVING ROOM.

YEEEEEAH... THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

I'M HAVING A LITTLE TROUBLE REMEMBERING...WAS THAT WHEN I SUSTAINED MY HEAD INJURY?
SURE WAS!

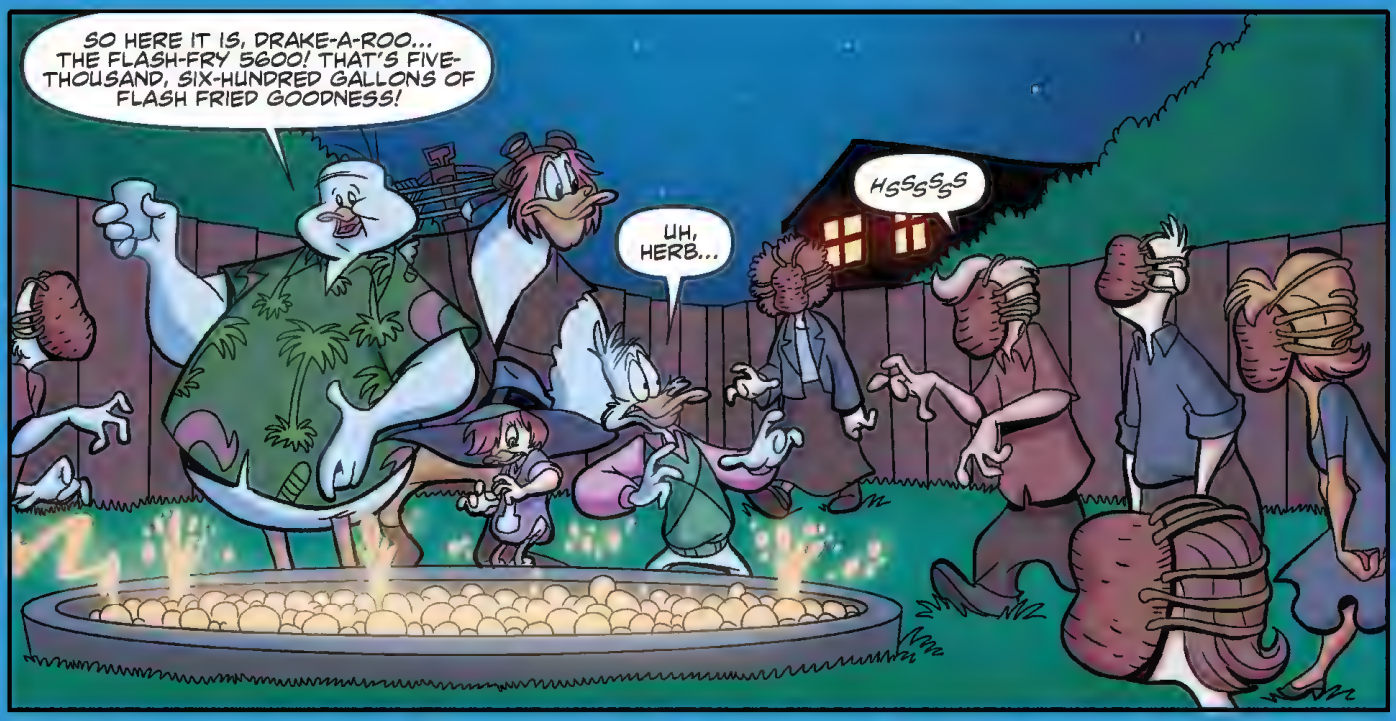
EEYYYAAAAHH
THAT SOUND! SO TERRIBLE!
IT CAME FROM THE MUDDLEFOOTS'!
EVERY SOUND THAT COMES FROM THE MUDDLEFOOTS' IS TERRIBLE.
C'MON, GUYS, WE'VE GOT TO SAVE THE MUDDLEFOOTS!
AND Y'KNOW... TANK. IF THERE'S TIME.
DA-AAAAD!
HUH?
CREAK
OOPS!
EYYYAAAH!
AAAAH!

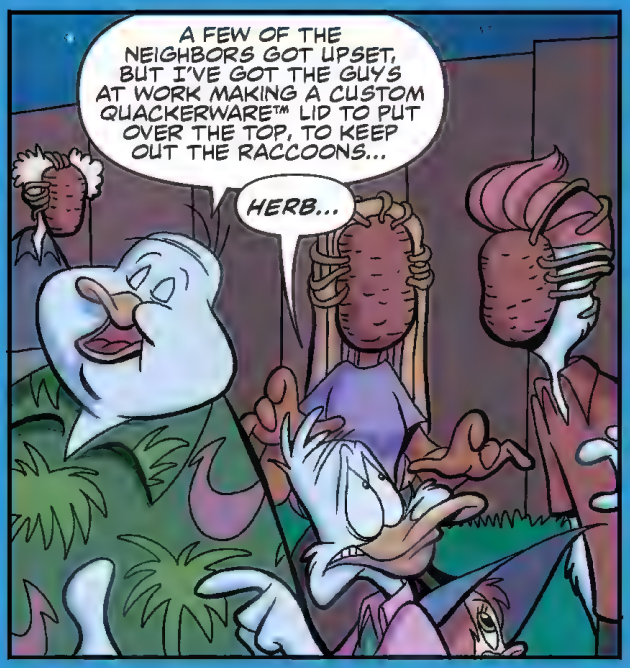

OH, HERB, ARE YOU FRIGHTENING THE TRICK-OR-TREATERS AG--OH!
WHAT A NICE SURPRISE, DRAKE! I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE IT.
AW, JUST HAVIN' A LITTLE FUN WITH MY BEST PAL, DRAKESTER! COME OVER FOR THE BIG HALLOWEEN HOOTENANNY, DIDJA?
OMIGOSH, THAT WAS AWESOME!
GUH-GUH B-B-B-B...


I'VE GOT TO GET THE COOKIES OUT OF THE OVEN... HERB, WHY DON'T YOU SHOW THEM YOUR NEW BACKYARD DEEP-FRYER?
SURE THING! C'MON EL DRAKE-A-REEN-O, YOU'RE GONNA LOVE IT!
...WHEN ALL THE CRISPERS ARE FULL, THE VEGETABLES SHALL WALK THE EARTH...

SO, HERB...YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED SOMETHING STRANGE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD?
WELL...NOW THAT YA MENTION IT, WE HAVEN'T HAD A LOT OF TRICK-OR-TREATERS THIS YEAR...

...AND THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A BIG SALE ON POTATO MASKS.


SO HERE IT IS, DRAKE-A-ROO... THE FLASH-FRY 5600! THAT'S FIVE-THOUSAND, SIX-HUNDRED GALLONS OF FLASH FRIED GOODNESS!
UH, HERB...
HSSSSS

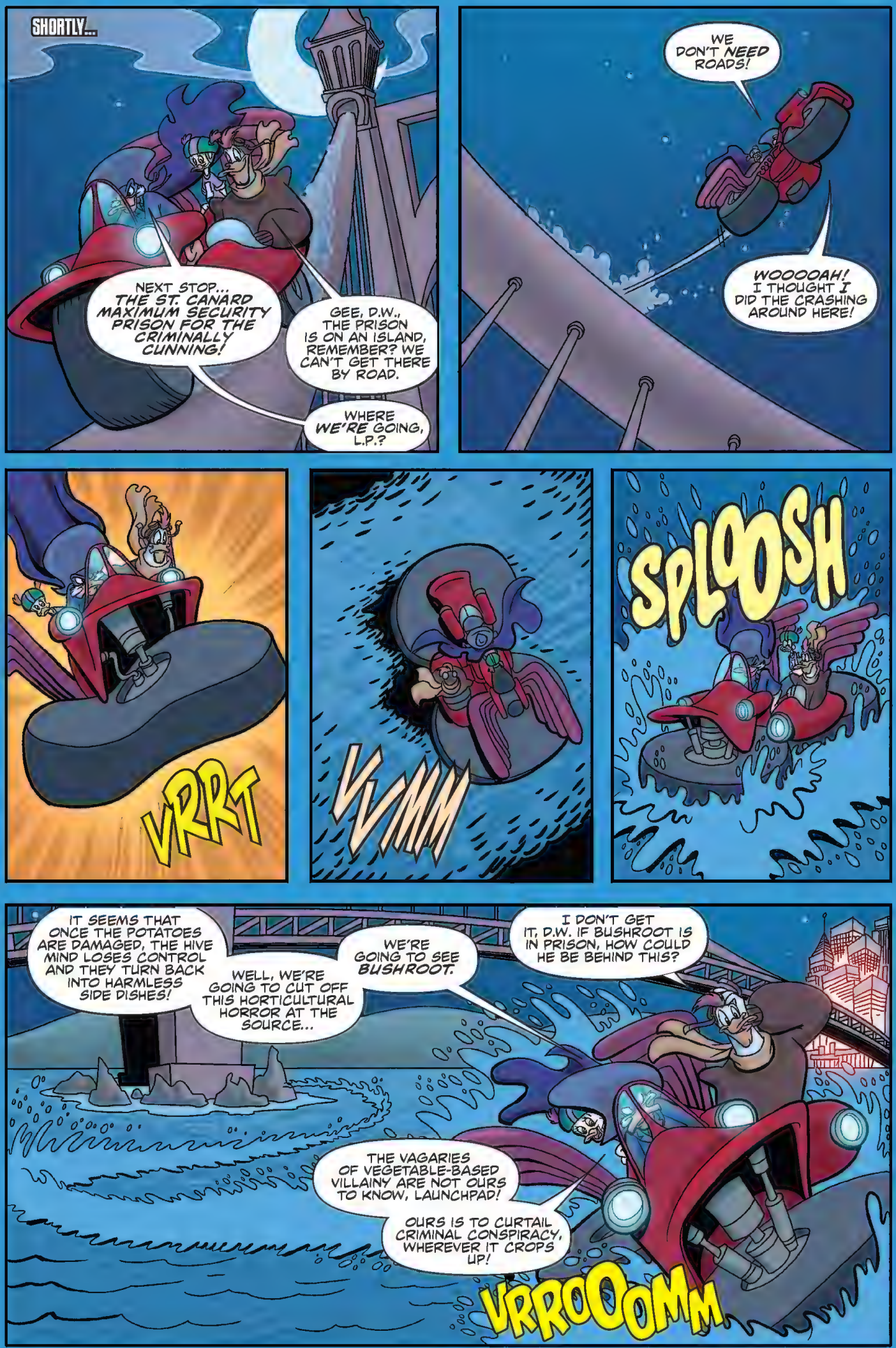

A FEW OF THE NEIGHBORS GOT UPSET, BUT I'VE GOT THE GUYS AT WORK MAKING A CUSTOM QUACKERWARE™ LID TO PUT OVER THE TOP, TO KEEP OUT THE RACCOONS...
HERB...

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT AN OPEN PIT OF CONGEALED GREASE IN THE BACKYARD COULD BE A PROB--
HERB! YOUR PARTY GUESTS HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN OVER BY ZOMBIE POTATOES!
DA-AAAAAD...

TAKEN OVER? YOU MEAN LIKE IN INVASION OF THE QUACKERSNATCHERS?
NOT EVERYTHING IS TELEVISION, HERB!

HANG ON, DRAKESTER, I'VE GOT JUST THE THING FOR THIS!
GRAHH!

THERE'S TOO MANY OF 'EM, D.W.! I NEVER THOUGHT THIS IS HOW WE'D GO OUT!
HOW DID YOU FIGURE WE'D GO?
EH, I KINDA FIGURED IT WOULD INVOLVE THE THUNDERQUACK... MAYBE THE FACE OF A MOUNTAIN...
GET AWAY FROM THEM, YOU SPUDS!
SPWAP
FSSSH
THWACK
FSSSHM
CHUNK
FSSSH
NOTHIN' GETS THROUGH OL' LUCY HERE! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE PLENTY OF FRENCH FRIES FOR THE PARTY!
BINKIE, BREAK OUT THE BACON DIP!
HMM...THESE ARE GARDEN-VARIETY FARM-FRESH GOOD-FOR-YOU POTATOES! I DEDUCE THEY'RE BEING TEMPORARILY ANIMATED BY SOME SORT OF HIVE MIND!
WELL, THERE'S ONLY ONE VILLAIN TO VET WHEN VEGETABLES GO VIOLENT AND RUTABEGAS GO ROGUE...
I'LL GET OUR BACON DIP TO GO!

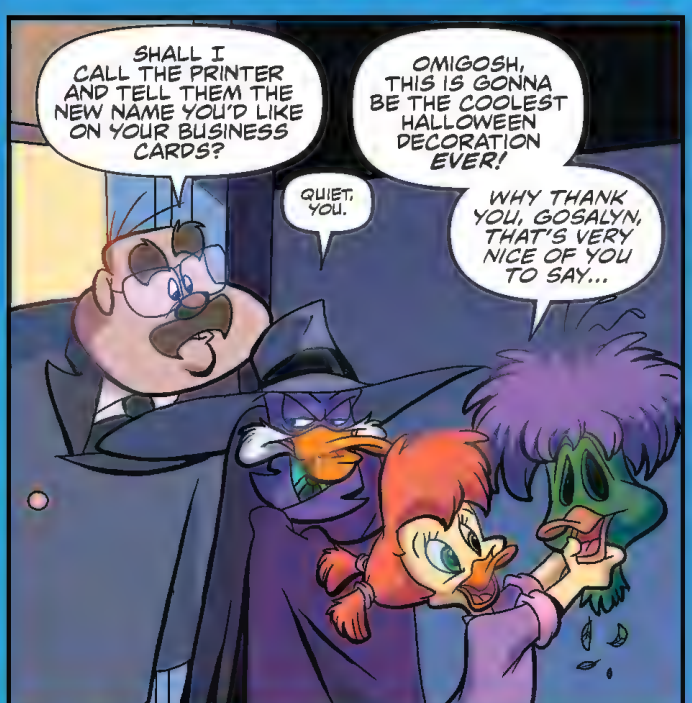

SHORTLY...
NEXT STOP... THE ST. CANARD MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON FOR THE CRIMINALLY CUNNING!
GEE, D.W., THE PRISON IS ON AN ISLAND, REMEMBER? WE CAN'T GET THERE BY ROAD.
WHERE WE'RE GOING, L.P.?
WE DON'T NEED ROADS!
WOOOOAH! I THOUGHT I DID THE CRASHING AROUND HERE!
VRRT
VVMM
SPLOOSH
IT SEEMS THAT ONCE THE POTATOES ARE DAMAGED, THE HIVE MIND LOSES CONTROL AND THEY TURN BACK INTO HARMLESS SIDE DISHES!
WELL, WE'RE GOING TO CUT OFF THIS HORTICULTURAL HORROR AT THE SOURCE...
WE'RE GOING TO SEE BUSHROOT.
I DON'T GET IT, D.W. IF BUSHROOT IS IN PRISON, HOW COULD HE BE BEHIND THIS?
THE VAGARIES OF VEGETABLE-BASED VILLAINY ARE NOT OURS TO KNOW, LAUNCHPAD!
OURS IS TO CURTAIL CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY, WHEREVER IT CROPS UP!
VRROOOMM

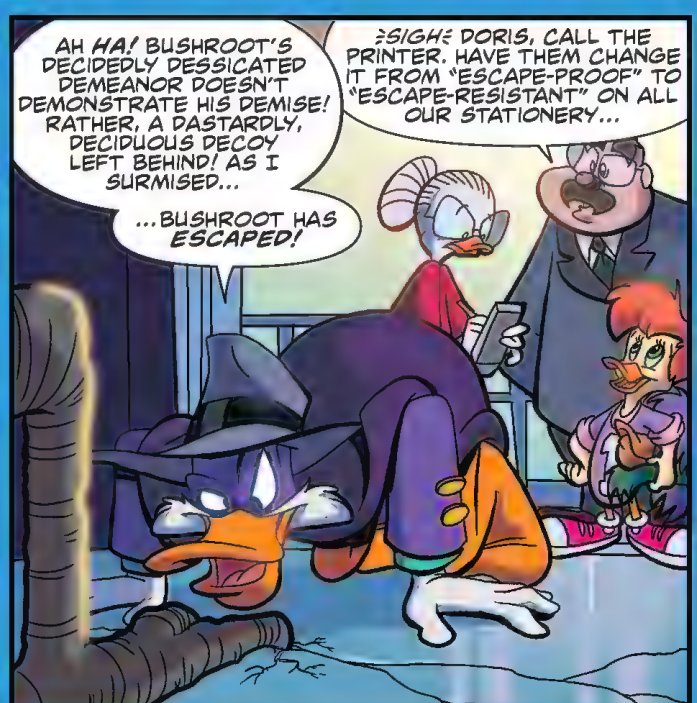
MY SECRETARY TOLD ME YOU CALLED, MR. WING DUCK, AND I ASSURE YOU, DR. BUSHROOT IS SECURE IN HIS CELL! THIS FACILITY, IS, AFTER ALL, COMPLETELY ESCAPE-PROOF...
I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT, WARDEN DULLERD! WHEN MY CITY IS PERSECUTED BY A PLAGUE OF PREDATORY POTATOES, ONLY ONE PUSILLANIMOUS PLANT CAN BE THE PERPETRATOR!
BUSHROOT IS BEHIND THIS, OR MY NAME ISN'T DARKWING DUCK!

SO, WE MEET AGAIN, BUSHROOT! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'VE UNLEASHED THIS SOON-TO-BE MASHED MENACE UPON ST. CANARD, BUT YOUR SPUDMAGEDDON IS OFFICIALLY OVER!

NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME HOW TO STOP THIS, OR AM I GOING TO HAVE TO GET OUT MY PRUNING SHEAR--

-gyaaAAAAHH!
COOL BEANS, SOUVENIR! DIBS!


SHALL I CALL THE PRINTER AND TELL THEM THE NEW NAME YOU'D LIKE ON YOUR BUSINESS CARDS?
OMIGOSH, THIS IS GONNA BE THE COOLEST HALLOWEEN DECORATION EVER!
QUIET, YOU.
WHY THANK YOU, GOSALYN, THAT'S VERY NICE OF YOU TO SAY...


AH HA! BUSHROOT'S DECIDEDLY DESSICATED DEMEANOR DOESN'T DEMONSTRATE HIS DEMISE! RATHER, A DASTARDLY, DECIDUOUS DECOY LEFT BEHIND! AS I SURMISED...
...BUSHROOT HAS ESCAPED!
SIGH DORIS, CALL THE PRINTER. HAVE THEM CHANGE IT FROM "ESCAPE-PROOF" TO "ESCAPE-RESISTANT" ON ALL OUR STATIONERY...

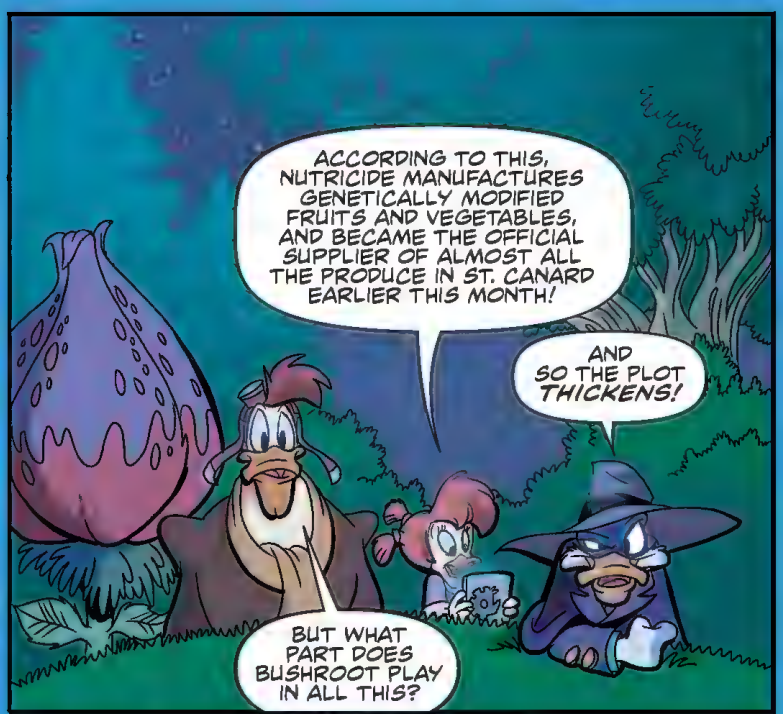
GOSH, D.W., THE CITY'S IN A FULL-SCALE PANIC! SHOULDN'T WE STOP TO HELP?
NO TIME TO TREAT THE SYMPTOMS, LAUNCHPAD! WE'RE HUNTING THE DISEASE...
...AND I'M THE CURE.
YOU'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME TO USE THAT ONE, HAVEN'T YOU?
EVERY DAY FOR THE LAST FIVE MONTHS SINCE I THOUGHT OF IT!
ACCORDING TO THE RATCATCHER'S SEISMOGRAPH, BUSHROOT'S UNDERGROUND ESCAPE ROUTE HEADS ALL THE WAY OUT OF THE CITY AND INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE. IT SEEMS OUR FLOWERING FELON HAS DECIDED TO GET BACK TO NATURE.
NEXT STOP...THE COUNTRY!
OOH, CAN WE HAVE A PICNIC? STOP BY S.H.U.S.H. HEADQUARTERS, I WANNA MAKE SOME SANDWICHES...
ST. CANARD CITY LIMIT
NOW ENTERING POSSUM HOLLER, HOME OF JAKE'S PRIZE-WINNING COW

THE ROOT SYSTEM ENDS HERE, WHICH MEANS BUSHROOT MUST BE NEARBY...
HEY D.W., IS IT ME, OR DOES THIS AREA =MUNCH MUNCH= LOOK *FAMILIAR?*
IT TOTALLY IS, LAUNCHPAD! DAD, RIGHT OVER THAT HILL IS WHERE WE FOUGHT THE VAMPIRE POTATO!

THAT'S *RIGHT!* IN HIS ATTEMPT TO MAKE A BRIDE FOR HIMSELF, BUSHROOT UNLEASHED A RAVENOUS MONSTER, WHOSE BITE TRANSFORMED THE MUDDLEFOOTS INTO MINDLESS ZOMBIE COUCH POTAOTES!
IT WAS HARD TO NOTICE ANY DIFFERENCE, REALLY...
CATCH THE CLASSIC DISNEY DARKWING DUCK EPISODE "NIGHT OF THE LIVING SPUD," TO SEE FOR YOURSELF! —ED.

IF BUSHROOT'S ATTEMPTING TO REKINDLE HIS ROOT-BASED ROMANCE, THEN HE'S PROBABLY RIGHT OVER THE--

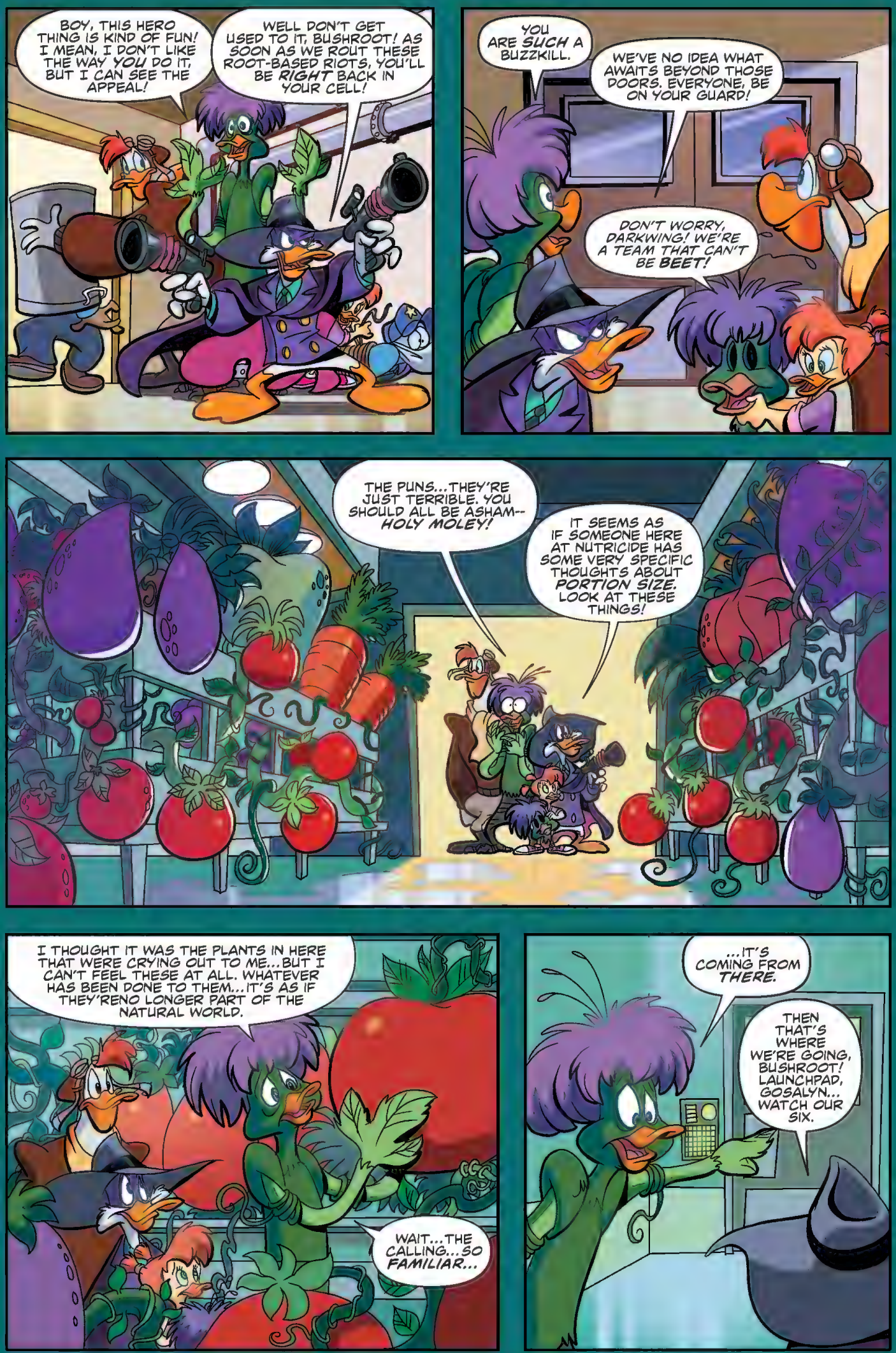
--HUH. WELL, *THAT'S* NEW!

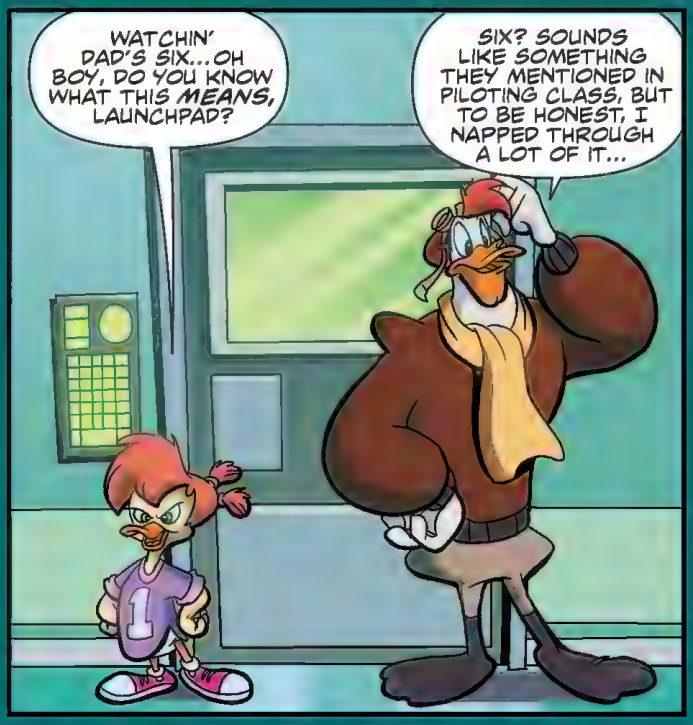

ACCORDING TO THIS, NUTRICIDE MANUFACTURES GENETICALLY MODIFIED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, AND BECAME THE OFFICIAL SUPPLIER OF ALMOST ALL THE PRODUCE IN ST. CANARD EARLIER THIS MONTH!
AND SO THE PLOT *THICKENS!*
BUT WHAT PART DOES BUSHROOT PLAY IN ALL THIS?

THEY CALL TO ME...
AAAAAAAAAAH!

BUSHROOT! SUCK GAS, EVILD--
WOAH, WOAH, WOAH! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU? WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO AGGRESSIVE?!
OH, I DON'T KNOW...BECAUSE YOU'RE AN ESCAPED FELON? BECAUSE YOU'RE A MENTALLY UNBALANCED MUTANT, WHO'S SCHEMES HAVE MORE THAN ONCE PUT THE POPULACE IN PERIL? BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT NORMAL?
NORMAL? YOU HAVE A SIDEKICK WHO'S CARRYING AROUND MY DISEMBODIED HEAD FOR... WELL, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY...AND YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT NORMAL?
I GUESS THAT'S A FAIR POINT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, BUSHROOT?
THE POTATOES...THEY CALL TO ME. THEY'RE IN PAIN. I CAN FEEL IT. AND SOMEHOW, THAT PAIN MANIFESTED ITSELF IN A ROOT SYSTEM THAT FORCED ITS WAY RIGHT THROUGH THE WALLS OF THE PRISON, AND BROUGHT ME HERE. I THINK... THINK I'M SUPPOSED TO SAVE THEM.
WHATEVER IS GOING ON IN THAT FACTORY... IT'S EVIL.
ALL RIGHT, BUSHROOT...IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TOGETHER ON THIS ONE. BUT STEP OUT OF LINE, AND YOU'RE TOMORROW'S CHEF'S SALAD.
THAT IS SO OFFENSIVE.
EVERYONE... LET'S GET DANGEROUS!
NOBODY LIKES IT WHEN YOU SAY THAT.

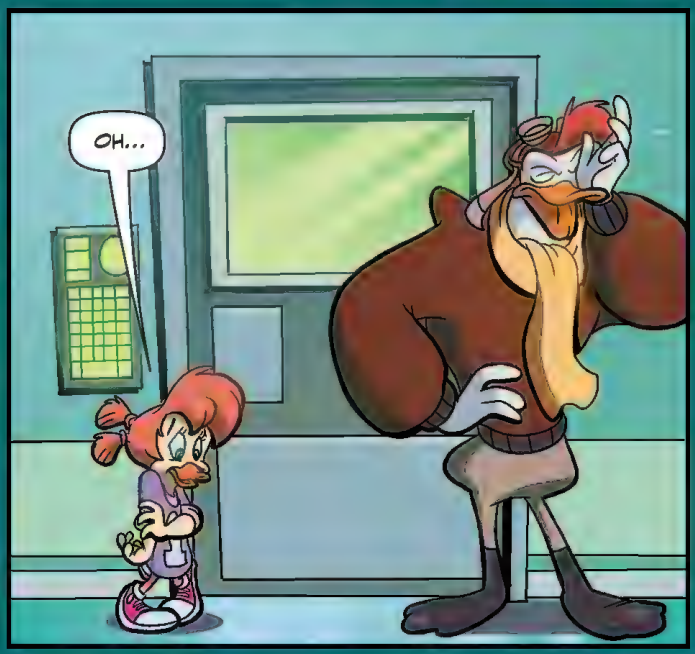
YOU SEE THAT NEW VT-16?
I'M NOT PLAYING THIS GAME WITH YOU AGAIN, CARL.
GAH!
WOOP
INTRUDER ALERT! INTRUDER-- HELLO?!
?!
=AHEM=
I'M AFRAID IT'S LIGHT'S OUT, RENT-A-COP!
!

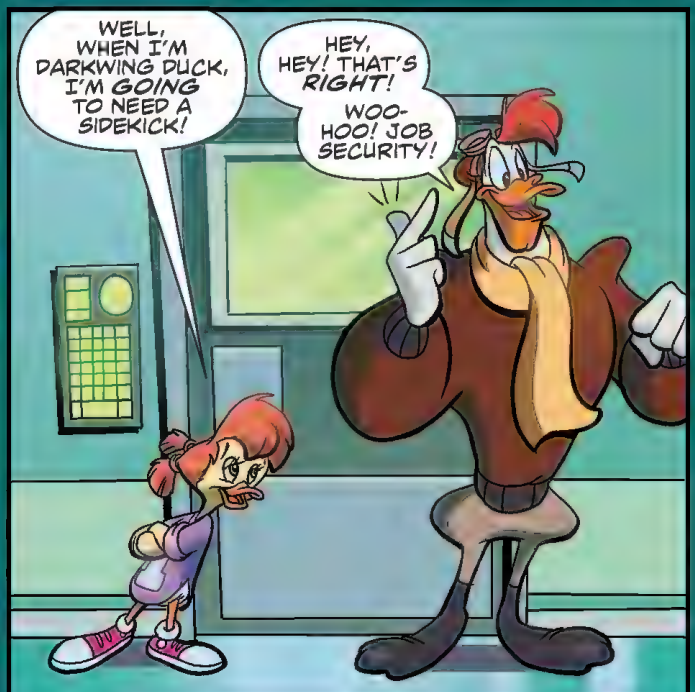

BOY, THIS HERO THING IS KIND OF FUN! I MEAN, I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU DO IT, BUT I CAN SEE THE APPEAL!
WELL DON'T GET USED TO IT, BUSHROOT! AS SOON AS WE ROUT THESE ROOT-BASED RIOTS, YOU'LL BE RIGHT BACK IN YOUR CELL!
YOU ARE SUCH A BUZZKILL.
WE'VE NO IDEA WHAT AWAITS BEYOND THOSE DOORS. EVERYONE, BE ON YOUR GUARD!
DON'T WORRY, DARKWING! WE'RE A TEAM THAT CAN'T BE BEET!
THE PUNS...THEY'RE JUST TERRIBLE. YOU SHOULD ALL BE ASHAM-- HOLY MOLEY!
IT SEEMS AS IF SOMEONE HERE AT NUTRICIDE HAS SOME VERY SPECIFIC THOUGHTS ABOUT PORTION SIZE. LOOK AT THESE THINGS!
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE PLANTS IN HERE THAT WERE CRYING OUT TO ME...BUT I CAN'T FEEL THESE AT ALL. WHATEVER HAS BEEN DONE TO THEM...IT'S AS IF THEY'RE NO LONGER PART OF THE NATURAL WORLD.
WAIT...THE CALLING...SO FAMILIAR...
...IT'S COMING FROM THERE.
THEN THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING, BUSHROOT! LAUNCHPAD, GOSALYN... WATCH OUR SIX.


WATCHIN' DAD'S SIX...OH BOY, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS *MEANS*, LAUNCHPAD?
SIX? SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING THEY MENTIONED IN PILOTING CLASS, BUT TO BE HONEST, I NAPPED THROUGH A LOT OF IT...

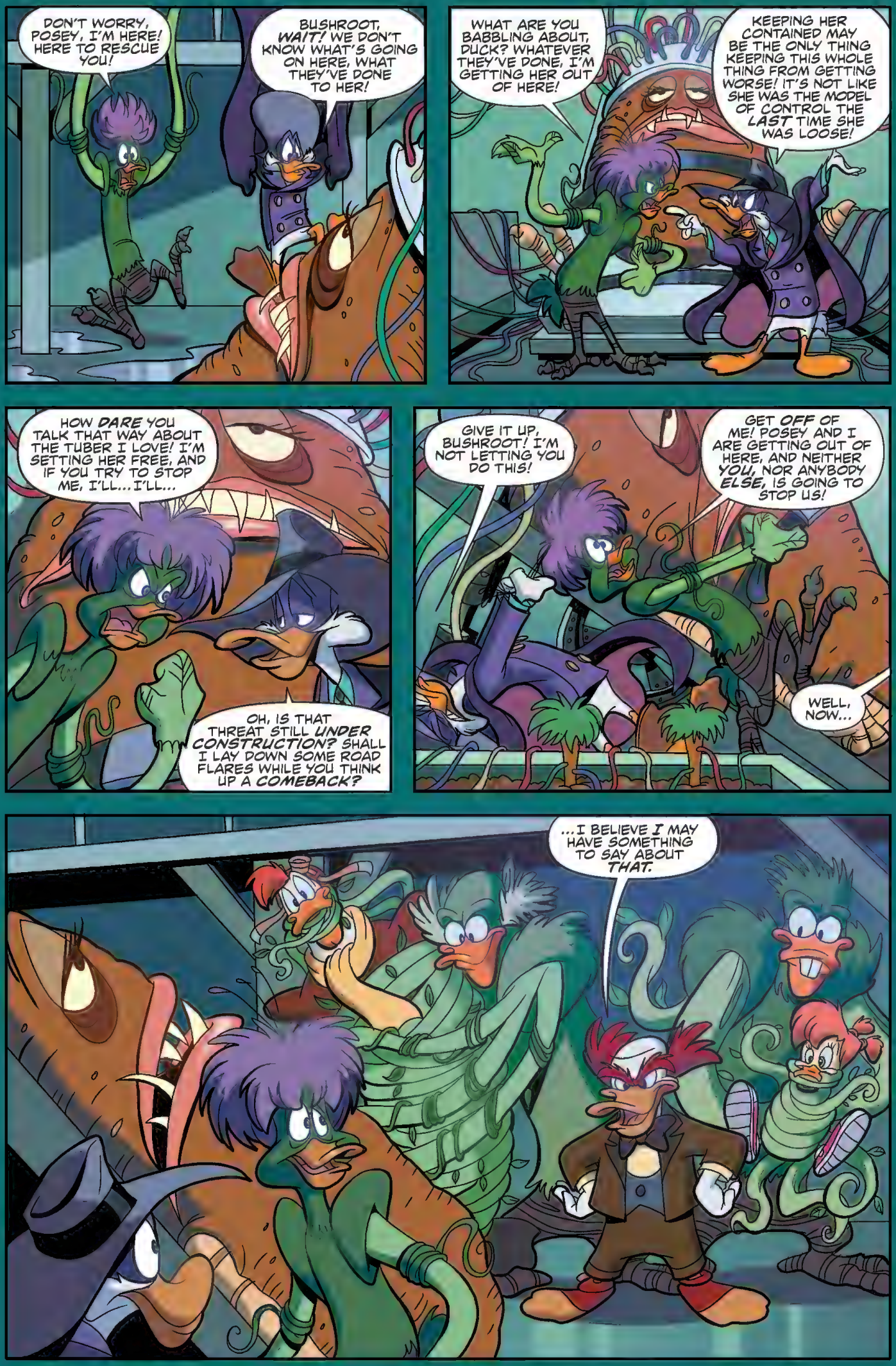
NO, I MEAN DAD TRUSTING ME TO BACK HIM UP! IT MEANS HE'S GETTING USED TO THE IDEA OF ME ONE DAY TAKING OVER FOR HIM AS DARKWING DUCK!
...OH. YEAH...YEAH, I GUESS...

...WHAT'S THE MATTER, LAUNCHPAD?
AW, IT'S NOTHIN'.
IT'S JUST... WELL, I ALWAYS FIGURED THAT, AS D.W.'S SIDEKICK... ONE DAY *I'D* TAKE OVER AS DARKWING DUCK.


OH...


WELL, WHEN I'M DARKWING DUCK, I'M *GOING* TO NEED A SIDEKICK!
HEY, HEY! THAT'S *RIGHT*!
WOO-HOO! JOB SECURITY!

NOT GONNA LIE, I *FEEL* LIKE WE TELEGRAPHED THIS ONE.
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
OH *NO!*
POSEY, MY SWEET! WHAT HAVE THEY *DONE* TO YOU?!


DON'T WORRY, POSEY, I'M HERE! HERE TO RESCUE YOU!
BUSHROOT, WAIT! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO HER!
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, DUCK? WHATEVER THEY'VE DONE, I'M GETTING HER OUT OF HERE!
KEEPING HER CONTAINED MAY BE THE ONLY THING KEEPING THIS WHOLE THING FROM GETTING WORSE! IT'S NOT LIKE SHE WAS THE MODEL OF CONTROL THE LAST TIME SHE WAS LOOSE!
HOW DARE YOU TALK THAT WAY ABOUT THE TUBER I LOVE! I'M SETTING HER FREE, AND IF YOU TRY TO STOP ME, I'LL... I'LL...
OH, IS THAT THREAT STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION? SHALL I LAY DOWN SOME ROAD FLARES WHILE YOU THINK UP A COMEBACK?
GIVE IT UP, BUSHROOT! I'M NOT LETTING YOU DO THIS!
GET OFF OF ME! POSEY AND I ARE GETTING OUT OF HERE, AND NEITHER YOU, NOR ANYBODY ELSE, IS GOING TO STOP US!
WELL, NOW...
...I BELIEVE I MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT.

AIYEEE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT? MY WIFE'S PEARLS? TAKE THEM! THEY'RE FAKES ANYWAY!
GURF!
THUD
URK!
SPLWK
GRAAAAH!
YOU... YOU SAVED US!
OF COURSE I DID! ST. CANARD, HAVE NO FEAR...
GIZMODUCK
IS HERE!
TO BE CONTINUED!...

MASKED MISSIVES

Whew! Just as things started looking bleak, a real, live, bonafide superhero showed up to save the day, just like in the comic books! I'm sure Darkwing will welcome the timely arrival of Gizmoduck with open feathers, eager to join forces with his comrade in crimefighting, right? It's clear that nothing but a swift resolution free of crippling envy awaits us next issue. And with all these fiends and foes showing up on every panel, it's shaping up to be quite the family reunion before we take a break and get ready for our next slate of misadventures in the new year.

Meanwhile, we've got some important business to address before the once thriving city of St. Canard turns into a mouldering pile of poutine:

A-ha! Just when I thought *Disney Darkwing Duck* #4 couldn't have been any more enjoyable, y'all chose to send me over the moon with that ending! If that driver in the mail truck is who I think it is, how long ago was he planned to show up? Since the beginning of this revival?

Keep up the great work! It's like D.W never left!

Joseph L.
Nevada City, CA

Thanks, Joseph! And you caught that, huh? I was wondering if anyone out there would mistakenly think we plan things. Actually, this entire story arc (and the next, and the next) has been simmering on the creative stove shared by Aaron and James ever since the final pages of *The Definitively Dangerous Edition* were completed. The only problem is the rest of that stove is full of delicious things to eat like James's award-winning pineapple chimichangas and Aaron's signature meat slaw; the guys get so hopelessly distracted by dinner that it's a wonder anything ever gets done around here.

Hi! Might I say y'all are bringing Darkwing to life really well. When I was five in 1995-1996, I remember catching *Disney Darkwing Duck* with my family. While I was still pretty much a baby when the Masked Mallard made his debut, he still left an impression on me. Just sending love from Texas! Can't wait for more.

Damonika S.
Texas

That's really nice to hear, Damonika. We all have the same memories of watching with our siblings and cousins and friends, and D.W. obviously made a big impression on us, too. Stay tuned and let us know what you think of the next few issues!

Disney Darwing Duck was one of my favorite shows growing up. Now that I'm an adult I can truly understand the great jokes. I'm starting to read comics again all because of you guys and this series. You capture D.W. perfectly; the characters, story, humor, it's all here. Thank you so much for resurrecting my childhood.

And can you please answer this question? How does Honker know who D.W. is? I don't think it was ever explained on the show or in the old adventure books. Can you please fill in this old plot hole? Keep being dangerous.

Robert W.
Parts Unknown

Wow, that's very humbling, Robert! If our little series got you back into comics, we can officially say our job here is done. We all love comics as much as we love Darkwing Duck, and there's a lot of great stuff out there. I hope you spend lots of time exploring your local comic book store now to see what else is going on. As for Honker knowing D.W.'s secret identity, we all have our theories. Mine is that he was caught trying to steal the hubcaps off the Ratcatcher and Darkwing took him under his wing, but Aaron insists I'm mixing that up with something else.

This book just keeps getting better and better! I've been a D.W. fan since back when the show aired on Saturday mornings on the Disney Channel. I grabbed *Disney Darkwing Duck: The Definitively Dangerous Edition,* and I've been following this new run of comics since it started.

I thought D.W. running for mayor was great, but going to a comic convention? What an awesome story! Thanks for sharing with us. I can't wait to see where the story goes next!

I'm really loving the references to D.W.'s influences, too. I'm also a big fan of The Shadow, and it's awesome seeing the influences getting nods!

Joe C.
Charleston, SC

I'm glad to find a fellow fan of Darkwing's pulp roots, Joe! Many people think of *another* famous caped crusader when they first see Darkwing, but the show's influences are much more varied, stretching all the way back to The Shadow and the other fighting mystery men of the dime novels where modern adventure fiction was born. As I'm sure you know, the original animated series concept started as a riff on spy thrillers before it went to full-on costumed crime-fighting, so those elements are here, as well. The series is a tribute to all the action-packed stories we still love today, but with jokes about crashing planes and deep fryers. I hope you'll join us for more next month!

-- Jesse Post

We want to hear from you! Send your questions, recipes, and information leading to the arrest of super-villains to **info@joebooks.com** (with "OK TO PRINT" in the subject line). Gosalyn may decide to print your insights here for all of St. Canard to see!

ATTACK OF THE KILLER POTATOES!

All right, it's confession time. Do you remember the original *Disney Darkwing Duck* episode, "Night of the Living Spud," which introduced Bushroot's would-be bride, the vampire potato, Posey? It's one of my very favorite episodes.

Dr. Reginald Bushroot is unique in Darkwing's rogues gallery in that he's easily its most sympathetic villain. Mocked and shunned even before he became a freaky plant/duck hybrid, he's a character whose main motivation is to end his loneliness. That's something all of us can identify with at some point or another in our lives, although most of us don't try and create companionship by animating a giant potato.

"Night of the Living Spud" features a lot of the things I love about the world of Darkwing Duck: the sheer weirdness of a monster vegetable rampage, the pathos of a great villain, Gosalyn's fearlessness getting her and Honker in over their heads, and goofy side characters whose ultimate solution to any problem is a liberally applied amount of diesel fuel. And while each episode of *Disney Darkwing Duck* was a standalone affair with very little (if any) continuity, this was always one I wanted to revisit.

Of particular interest to me was the mysterious weasel, Duane, a truck-driving good ol' boy who was an exceptionally well-informed enigma, giving Darkwing a sage piece of advice that would serve the Masked Mallard well in his eventual showdown with the vampire potato. A lot of fans I've met over the years have expressed a similar appreciation for Duane, so it was great to bring him in as our story's omniscient narrator—our "Crypt Keeper," so-to-speak. Heck, if our intrepid editor, **Jesse Post,** ever takes a vacation, maybe Duane should answer your letters; after all, he's got *all* the answers.

Especially perceptive Darkwing fans may also notice we tie back to Bushroot's origin episode in this issue, with the ultimate revelation of our villain, Dean Tightbill. Tightbill made his first (and only) appearance in Bushroot's origin episode, "Beauty and the Beet." As always, we try and strike a balance between callbacks to the much beloved animated series while telling new stories that are still accessible to those who don't remember, or perhaps haven't watched, the original cartoon. I hope we've succeeded!

Until next month . . . stay dangerous!

Aaron Sparrow
January 2017

JAMBALAYA JAKE

TOP SECRET

REAL NAME: Jake (last name unrevealed)
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Former alligator wrangler, criminal
PLACE OF BIRTH: Born on the Bayou
KNOWN RELATIVES: Granny Whammy (Grandmother)
AFFILIATIONS: Gumbo (Pet Alligator), League of Barely Remembered Supervillains
FIRST APPEARANCE: "Can't Bayou Love," *Disney Darkwing Duck*, Season 1, Episode 16
QUOTE: *"Easier than takin' catfish from a snappin' turtle!"*
ABILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: Jambalaya Jake is proficient in hunting and trapping, an exceptional builder, and has a keen knowledge of construction equipment; he uses all of these skills in a variety of creative and potentially criminal ways. His alligator, Gumbo, may actually be the brains of the operation, often showing more sense than Jake when his plans turn sour.

HISTORY: Bayou born and bayou bred, **Jambalaya Jake** might have lived his life committing petty crime in the swamplands if he had never heard the rumor that St. Canard was "easy pickins." Setting off for the big city with his pet alligator, **Gumbo,** Jake fell in love with urban crime as thoroughly as Gumbo fell in love with St. Canard's world-class cuisine.

Jambalaya Jake ran afoul of **Darkwing Duck** and his sidekick, **Launchpad McQuack,** while trying to rob a charitable fundraiser. A game of cat-and-mouse ensued, with Jake committing various burglaries and giving Darkwing the slip each time. Darkwing finally got the best of Jake by dropping brownies into his overalls, causing the hungry Gumbo to turn on him.

Jake later hired his grandmother, the swamp witch known as **Granny Whammy,** to concoct potions he could use against the Masked Mallard. Darkwing was in the process of training Launchpad to be his "Darkwing Decoy" when Jake used a summoning potion, ensnaring the wrong duck. Jake sent Launchpad out to commit crimes, framing Darkwing who was soon captured, imprisoned, and then promptly escaped via a mesmerizing dance number. Jake and Gumbo quickly got the upper hand in the ensuing battle until Granny arrived to collect her unpaid fees. She left Jake to his fate for trying to hold out on her.

Jake and Gumbo eventually returned as part of **Suff-Rage's** "League of Barely Remembered Supervillains," attacking the heroes at a mayoral debate. Once subdued, he was teleported away with the rest of the team. He is currently incarcerated in St. Canard's Maximum Security Penitentiary for the Criminally Cunning.

From the Files of Darkwing Duck:

The cagey, calamitous Cajun, Jambalaya Jake, is a more cunning criminal than his size suggests. Unhinged and unpredictable, he has fought me to a standstill on more than one occasion. His commitment to crime is as constant as his continual contention with regular hygiene!

BUGMASTER

TOP SECRET

REAL NAME: Bianca Beakley
IDENTITY: Publicly known
OCCUPATION: Former television journalist, professional criminal
PLACE OF BIRTH: Unknown
KNOWN RELATIVES: None known
AFFILIATIONS: Gosalyn Mallard (as "The Grub"), League of Barely Remembered Supervillains
FIRST APPEARANCE: "Fraudcast News," *Disney Darkwing Duck,* Season 2, Episode 9
QUOTE: *"I am the monarch of the insect kingdom! I am The Bugmaster! And I am . . . not very nice at all!"*
ABILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: Bugmaster has various gadgets that allow her to replicate the natural abilities of insects, including a jet-pack that allows her to fly and a sonic blaster based on a cricket's chirp. Her second helmet, which incorporates technology stolen from Lilliput, allows her to control insects, but this helmet was confiscated by Darkwing and is currently in his trophy room.

HISTORY: **Bianca Beakley** was an unpleasant personality even before her turn to super-villainy. As the ambitiously cutthroat host of the television news program, *Canard Copy,* she regularly abused and berated her staff, especially as her ratings plummeted. Discovering that a story on **Darkwing Duck** caused a slight uptick in ratings, she set out to document the crimefighter's adventures.

Excited to finally get some decent press, Darkwing agreed to let Beakley tag along. Unfortunately, a super-villain convention in Florida had drawn away most of his enemies, leaving him to confront jaywalkers and leash-law violators. Frustrated by the lack of compelling drama, Beakley decided to create the news by battling Darkwing as the monarch of the insect kingdom, the **Bugmaster!** Creating an armored, insect-themed costume, Bugmaster committed a series of thefts that drew the Masked Mallard's attention.

As a junior news reporter at school, **Gosalyn** idolized Bianca Beakley. She deduced Beakley's secret identity and confronted her, but Beakley convinced her she was only committing crimes temporarily to give Darkwing a proper nemesis for the series. Finding nothing wrong with this deception, Gosalyn donned her own costume and joined Bugmaster as the **Grub.**

After capturing Darkwing and Launchpad, the Bugmaster tried to dip them in boiling beeswax. Realizing Bugmaster was lying to her, Gosalyn turned on Bugmaster, freed the heroes, and defeated the villain.

Sometime before the events known as "The Crisis on Infinite Darkwings," Beakley stole **Lilliput's** bug-controlling technology and implemented it in a new helmet, but she was again defeated.

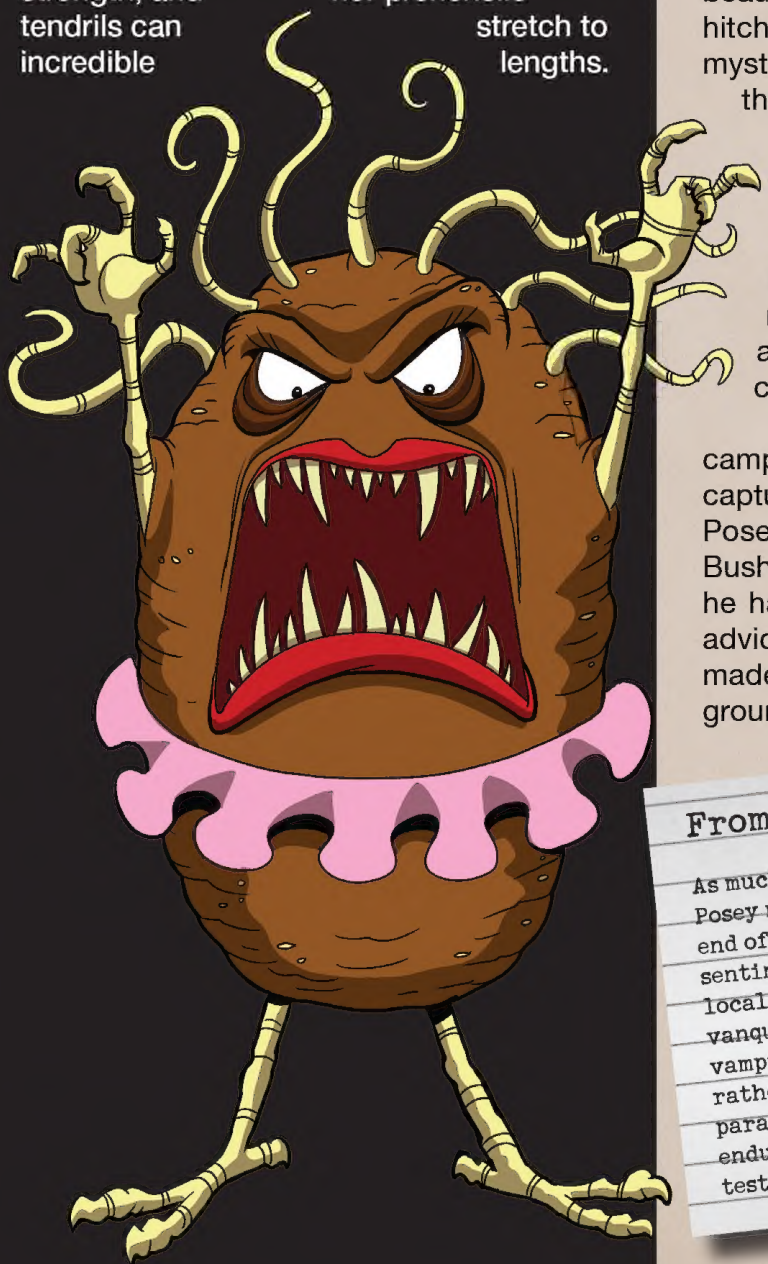
From the Files of Darkwing Duck:

Bianca Beakley, a.k.a. the Bugmaster, is the type of villain I revile most . . . a rotten, self-centered egomaniac interested only in publicity! If there's one thing I cannot abide, it's cheap theatrics and a desperate need for attention!

POSEY

TOP SECRET

REAL NAME: Posey
IDENTITY: Generally believed to be a tabloid rumor
OCCUPATION: Creature of the night
PLACE OF BIRTH: St. Canard
KNOWN RELATIVES: None known
AFFILIATIONS: None, despite Bushroot's best overtures
FIRST APPEARANCE: "Night of the Living Spud," *Disney Darkwing Duck,* Season 1, Episode 5
QUOTE: *"Snaaaaaaarl!"*
ABILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: Posey's bite can transform ordinary citizens into zombie-like couch potatoes who only wish to watch television and eat potato-based products. She possesses uncanny strength, and her prehensile tendrils can stretch to incredible lengths.



HISTORY: In an effort to ease his loneliness after the rejection of **Dr. Rhoda Dendron** (who knew that trying to mutate a co-worker into a plant/duck hybrid could put strain on a relationship?) **Dr. Bushroot** created **Posey.** Aiming to create a beautiful flower mutant as his companion, Bushroot's plans went awry when his assistant, **Spike,** replaced Bushroot's posey blossom with potato starch, accidentally creating an Ill-tempered mutant vampire. Despite this unexpected development, Bushroot remained devoted to Posey, but she had other plans, breaking free from Bushroot's greenhouse and rampaging across the countryside.

Darkwing Duck stumbled onto Bushroot's plans when the villain robbed the local Fabric King, determined to clothe his new bride in beautiful gowns. Darkwing and **Launchpad** hitched a ride into the country with a mysterious trucker named **Duane,** who told them about the frozen aliens in his truck and other local folklore, before swerving to avoid a "'tater in the road the size of Jake's cow." Imparting the knowledge necessary to defeat such a creature, Duane dropped off his passengers at a roadside Hamburger Hippo, leaving them at the mercy of the locals and their so-called "vampire tests."

With the help of **Gosalyn** (who had gone camping with the **Muddlefoots** in an attempt to capture Big Webfoot), Darkwing tracked down Posey and was quickly trapped in her tendrils. Bushroot tried to attack Darkwing, believing he had stolen Posey's heart. Darkwing, using advice from Duane and pollen from Bushroot, made Posey shrivel up and disappear into the ground.

From the Files of Darkwing Duck:

As much as I hate to admit it, Posey might well have been the end of St. Canard's stalwart sentinel, had it not been for a local lunatic's knowledge of vanquishing the vagaries of vampiric vegetables. Still, I'd rather face any number of parasitic potatoes before enduring another "vampire test" from Duane's crackpot cohorts!

DON'T OPEN
VEGETABLES
INSIDE

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